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History of Mantorville, Minnesota

The County Seat of Dodge

1854 - 1952

COMPLIMENTS OF
DODGE COUNTY COURT HOUSE

LLOYD ROUHOFF, Register of Deeds

LAWRENCE A. TRUE, County Auditor

ARTHUR LAMPLAND, Supervisor of Assessments

LEE R. ROHRER, Judge of Probate

OBERT GROVDAHL, County Treasurer

ERNEST ELLSON Veteran Service Officer

HARRY COWLES, Clerk of Court

H. A. SULLIVAN, Engineer

B. W. TAYLOR, Superintendent of Schools

BERNICE WEIGEL, Public Health Nurse

RUDY BENSON, Sheriff

I. A. FENNE, Ex.-Sec'y., County Welfare Board

MANTORVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COUNTY COMMISSIONES:

JOHN TULLY, Kasson, Minn.

JOHN SATHRUM, West Concord, Minn.

H. U. BOE, Hayfield, Minn.

GILBERT A. HESTER, Dodge Center, Minn.

WM. A. HENSLIN, Dodge Center, Minn.

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270

MANTORVILLE

A NAME TO REMEMBER IN HISTORY . . . .

Mantorville a name to remember in history. A name to conjure in ones mind and thought of the glorious past of America. . . . . History is written by people who through unselfish sacrifice have handed down to the generations to come a heritage of love and devotion. . . . . Time may alter the turn of events but nothing can alter the spirit of the people who founded this community 100 years ago.

The Marigold Dairy in its 25th year is but an infant in the progress of America but we too beleive in the principal of "Live and Let Live," and will alwas strive to maintain a happy medium between the tradition of the past and the progress of the future.

MARIGOLD
DAIRIES

YOU CAN BUILD BETTER AND SAVE MORE

WITH OUR WELL-KNOWN QUALITY MATERIALS

We are well equipped to help you with your building or remodeling jobs. We handle a complete line of quality maerials which carry the well known names of leading manufacturers.

Let us estimate on your requirements. We have served this community for over 30 years. "Bill", and "Skip" are always ready and willing to assist you.

KASSON LUMBER COMPANY

Kasson, Minn. "The Community Yard" Phone 100

Erdman Food Stores

GROCERIES - MEATS

LOCKER SERVICE

BUTCHERING — CURING — SMOKING

STORES LOCATED AT

MANTORVILLE CHATFIELD
KASSON STEWARTVILLE

Pietsch Implement

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QUALITY FARM EQUIPMENT

PHONE 248 KASSON, MINN.

BOSTON CAFE
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MEALS — LUNCHES — SOFT DRINKS

NEW MODERN ROOMS EQUIPPED WITH RADIO

CLARKE BLAINE, Owner and Proprietor

Boson Cafe - Phone 146 KASSON Ranch Motel - Phone 146

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KASSON, MINN — TELEPHONE 22

DONALD N. DIBBLE
PHONE 288

RALPH (BUD) DIBBLE
PHONE 294

DODGE COUNTY SERVICE
—COMPANY—

Farm Bureau

PETROLEUM — FEED — SEED — FERTILIZER

DODGE CENTER, MINNESOTA

MANTORVILLE, MINN WEST CONCORD, MINN.

LEUTHOLD'S

Where Good Clothing and Footwear
Are Not Expensive

LEUTHOLD & NOLTE
Men's and Boys Clothing

LEUTHOLD & PARKIN
Dry Goods - Ladies Apparel

LEUTHOLD'S SHOE MART
Footwear For the Entire Family

KASSON - - - - - MINNESOTA

"Mantorville, Minnesota"

The County Seat of Dodge

BY MARLENE GLAUS

Mantorville has one of the greatest historical backgrounds for a village its size in the entire nation. It has advanced in the ways of democracy, freedom and prosperity, and is overflowing with historical events, matchless treasures, and memories of great men and women. It too, is located in one of the richest and greatest farming regions throughout the Northwest. Although successful, the present man really owes his success to the pioneer, whose hardships and determination has won for him his aims of modern living.

The following is a story written about these people, and tells how they lived, how they failed and how they, in turn, succeeded, and is written especially for YOU.

The history of Mantorville, Minnesota extends as far back as 1854, when a group of homeseekers explored a great new land and chose it as the place for their new settlement. While being together for only a few hours, these colonists sighted vast resources in the area, among the varations of natural wonder were: a cool flowing river which wound its way among the dipping hills, hilly acres of woodland layered with limestone, and the rich unbroken soils. There was magnificent scenery and beauty everywhere. Among the early colonists were the two Mantor brothers, Peter and Riley,

Mantorville street scene—store at left is Eggensperger's Variety and the store on the far corner is that of Erdman's Grocery.

PERMANENTS - FINGER WAVES - SHAMPOOS - MANICURES

Irene's Beauty Nook

IRENE PAPPAS

"If your hair isn't becoming to you, You should be coming to us."

PHONE 2092 — MANTORVILLE — OVER HUBBELL HOUSE

who were imigrants from Pennsylvania and E. P. Waterman an inhabitant of Root River Valley. They began staking their claims, and in the following days, the trio of pioneers journeyed down the river to bring their families, additional persons, and needed supplies to their new territory. Soon after the full group arrived they began cutting logs, and by April 19th had erected three log houses, which soon became the property of Peter Mantor, E. P. Waterman and William Fowler. In addition to getting their farms started, these people established mills and methods of trade with neighboring villages.

While gathering lumber for their mills, Peter Mantor and the group of new-comers discovered packs of the Mdewakanton Sioux Indian tribe roaming the forests surrounding Mantorville. The Mdewakanton tribe had frequent fights among the Sauk and Fox Indians, who fought their distance from previous Iowa camping grounds. While on friendly terms, the Indian

Here is a view from west to east across the Mantorville business district. The trees seen at the far end is the beginning of Dieter's woods which hides the ruins of the old brewery building which has been unserviceble to man for a good many years.

Barry Plumbing And Heating Co.

BUSINESS PHONE 6211

512 1ST AVENUE S. W. ROCHESTER, MINN.

A GOOD PLACE TO EAT WHEN YOU ARE HUNGRY

Brad's Dinner & Shoe Shop

A COMPLETE LINE OF SHOES FOR YOUNG AND OLD

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Bradford, Mantorville, Minn.

and the white provided aid to one-another by trade methods which helped to better both races and their standards of living.

group of people. John Shober had the privilege of being the first trader in the county. He built a log store on the hill south of the river, and supplied

The new water tower which was installed in Mantorville

Toward the end of the first summer, the two energetic men, John Shober and J. B. Hubbell, joined this

it with merchandise which was saleable to the white and traded to with the Indian. His store was built with

Carlson's Top Notch Chick Starter, Grower, and Egg Mash

Mantorville Produce

TOP PRICES PAID FOR EGGS AND POULTY

PHONE 2131 MANTORVILLE WILLIS J. CARLSON

A GOOD PLACE TO COME
Let us Winterize Your Car With Permazone or Freezone
BATTERIES - TIRES - ACCESSORIES AT THE
Mobil Station
Walter C. Stucky, Owner and Manager Mantorville, Minn.

split logs, stapled together with wooden spikes, and the roof was made of logs which were smoothly covered with shingled bark. Several years later the store was replaced by one of stone. The original building remains standing, and is owned by Lloyd Rouhoff, who uses it as a private garage.

three story edifice constructed of stone from the native quarries. It was completed, and dedicated in 1857, at a "Grand Thanksgiving Day Ball", which was attended by crowds from miles around. Today the building remains standing on its original site, as it looks across to the beautiful Deiter's

Scene of the beautiful courthouse hill extending from north to South across the village

While Shober was acheiving recognition, J. B. Hubbell opened what is to be known as the first hotel in the state. It was a two story affair built of logs. The upper rooms were used by travelers as sleeping apartments. This building was later built into a

woods, which casts its reflection into the waters of the Zumbro. In recent years, Paul J. Pappas bought the Hubbell House and had it re-modeled into an attractive dinner club, which was opened for business June 29, 1946. The club has seen notables from far

Dayntee Ladyee Style Shop
SUITS - COATS DRESSES - LINGERIE
PHONE 93 KASSON, MINNESOTA

FIKSDAL FLOWERS

ACROSS FROM ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

DIAL 4063 ROCHESTER, MINN.

and near who have enjoyed the delicious steaks, seafoods and other food served at this widely known eating house, some of which have been Fred McMurray, a great movie star; John Ringling North, President of the famous Ringling Brothers Circus; "Bob" Feller, great all-time pitcher for the Cleveland Indians; Sid Luckman, who has attained a national name as a quarterback for the Chicago Bears; Harry Blackstone, Sir Bengel Rau and other high dignitaries have dined in this ninety-five year old structure. For more than eighty years the Hubbell House served the village as a hotel.

Many noted persons have signed the desk register, Henry Clay, John Adams, General Sherman, Horace Greely, and W. W. Mayo have their signatures on the register, as do many other well known persons.

The earliest birth record recorded in the village was that of Francis E. Miller, dated January 25, 1855. The first marriage ceremony of Dodge county was performed at Mantorville, October 3, 1855, the couple were John Hart and Amanda Orcutt of Concord. Justice G. Bancroft conducted the ceremony.

Mantorville's "Famous Hubbell House. Paul J. Pappas, Prop.

Dodge county's first 4th of July

STATE THEATRE-KASSON

Best in Movie Entertainment

KASSON - - - MINNESOTA

T. G. PRODUCE CO.

BUYERS AND SHIPPERS OF EGGS

KASSON - - - - - MINNESOTA

celebration was held at Mantorville in 1854. One of the big events of the day was the reading of the Declaration of Independence by G. W. Slocum. At that time the Declaration was 78 years old, and was then bearing its full meaning as it was at the time of its

charge of the first cencus in the county, and he found the population to be about one-hundred, among whom were more than fifty eligible voters. On August 1, 1855, Mantor journeyed to the capital and put the matter before Governor Willis A. Gor-

Entering Mantorville from the south side of the town, we see a fine steel bridge which was erected by the Minnesota Highway Department in 1931. The bridge crosses the Zumbro river and leads into the towns busines district.

signing on July 4, 1776, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia. The audience consisting of Wiliam Fowler, E. P. Waterman, J. M. Cummer, M. B. Dolson, their wives and children, L. B. Garrison, Harrison Parmenter and S. G. Irish had the honor of hearing this delightful event.

Peter Mantor was appointed to take

man, who organized the County of Dodge. Three days later Gorman selected the first county officers. Among his appointments were: Notary Public, Peter Mantor; County Commissioners, James M. Summer, George Slocum and William Downard; Sheriff, J. B. Hubbell; Register of Deeds, J. H. Shober; Treasurer, J. R. Dartt; Dis-

HOME BAKERY & CAFE

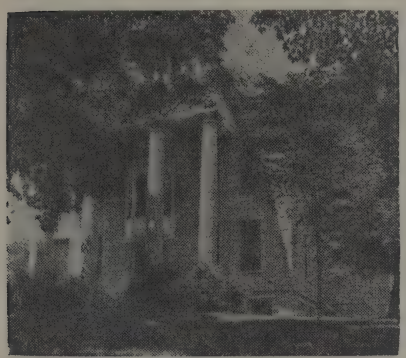
"GOOD FOOD IS OUR BUSINESS"

KASSON — — — — MINN.

KASSON WELL DRILLING CO.
PRESSURE SYSTEMS - SEPTIC TANKS - EXCAVATING
PLUMBING AND FIXTURES
Leonard L. Lampland Phone 298 Kasson, Minn.

trict Attorney, Samuel Burwell;; County Surveyor, William Chadwell; Assessor, J. E. Bancroft; Justices, G. P. Bancroft, R. Herzog and Alonzo Way; Canstables, E. Watrous, S. G. Irish, and O. B. Kidder. At about this time, A. J. Edgerton established the first county law office which was opened in the village.

As people flocked into Mantorville,



Dodge County Court House

and as the village began to grow, Peter Mantor and William Brown each constructed a saw mill. As this type of business became more and more successful, Messrs. Fowler and Irish added an additional mill to the village site. Their's was a shingle mill which proved successful until pine shingles were introduced. Among the more substantial and prosperous business places of the time were those owned by Page and Garrison, which was devoted to general merchandise; Henry Meyers, hardware; and Adams & McNamra, became successful owners of a dry goods store. The population of 1860 was tabulated in the village as 760. The growing village was beginning to ride on the high-way of success in the late 50's and early 60's.

Throughout the 1870's the Barnum and Baily Circus was held at intervals in Mantorville on grounds now occupied by the George Lally home. Many times groups of children found it amusing to watch the elephants and other circus animals drinking from the Zumbro. During circus time colored wagons and saddle horses formed a very colorful spectacle throughout the streets of Mantorville. Another exciting form of entertainment to the persons of Mantorville area was the first County Fair held October 8, 1857, just east of the Hubbell House. In addition to being the first County Fair, it too, was the first fair held in Minnesota territory. Premiums awarded at the event amounted to a grand total of $115.00. Various premiums were awarded to: O. E. Griswold, for the best yoke of working oxen, $5.00; S. Hays for the best jar of plum jam, 50c; Riley Mantor for the best two squashes, 50c; and to Lorenzo Sanborn for the best hive of honey, 50c. The fair was much of a success, and the credit of the event was given to

PIETSCH MOTORS
BUICK — PONTIAC — GMC
KASSON MINNESOTA

KASSON LANES — KASSON, MINN.

BOWLING

PHONE 29 CLAIR LYNARD

the first Dodge County Agricultural Society, which was established in the month of July, earlier that year.

The Old Settlers Association of Dodge County was organized March 6, 1872. The first meeting was held in the court room at the Mantorville Courthouse and articles were signed by 74 persons. The organization has met annually ever since.

The first county seat struggle of Dodge was started by persons in the Wasioja area, and on October 11th, 1859, a special election was held on its removal to Wasioja. The voters favored Mantorville by a margin of six-hundred-twenty-one votes against the opposing four-hundred-twelve. Other villages racing for the County Seat title have been Sacramento and Dodge Center.

The form was layed and the building of the courthouse commenced in April of 1866. It was completed five years later on lots 1, 2, 3, block 22, in Mantorville village. The exterior was constructed of limestone from the native quarries, and C. T. Mix of Milwaukee was the architect. Members of the building committee were: Samuel Willson and Thomas Marshall. Total expenditures and materials used in the building amounted to the sum of fifteen hundred dollars. The courthouse was constructed into two stories, ninety-five feet long and forty-six feet wide. A large silver dome sets on its roof which contains a bell, and may be heard throughout various sessions of court trials. The two entrances may be found, one on the north, and one on the south end, with a ten foot hallway extending from door to door. The courthouse grounds are very beautiful as they contain a smooth carpet of lush green grass, showering chesnut trees, and a fine parking space for cars. It is situated in a very beautiful location as it looks across to the Hilltop Church and down upon what is known as the "Courthouse Hill." The hill extends from the school on the north side of the village, to the bridge crossing the Zumbro on the south side, and continues upward over Fryer's hill and into Kasson. This has been said to be the shortest paved highway in the United State, running at the distance of about three miles.

In 1855 the county was divided into 12 townships, and on October first

COMPLIMENTS OF

JOHNSON SHELL SERVICE

MAIN AND KEYES

KASSON, MINN. — — PHONE 101

H. L. BLAISDELL MOTORS

FORD — DEARBORN

PHONE 12 — — — KASSON, MINN

of that year the first county road was constructed which extends from Mantorville to Red Wing, Minnesota. The road became popular traveled by the horse and buggy, and goods were carried from town to town.

Scene on the north edge of the Stussy quarries just a short drive south from Mantorville.

Mantorville's Post Office system was established in the middle of the nineteenth century. John Shober became the first postmaster. At about this time, (November 18, 1855), the first school was opened in the village, and was taught by Mrs. Sarah Espy. It was located east of Hubbell House. This organization stayed in service for fourteen years when a much larger stone structure was erected. The foundation ranked high in its class and was at that time one of Southern Minnesota's finest schools. In 1869

CLAUDE FIEGEL

Battery, Electrical and General Repairing

Texaco Gas — Firestone Tires

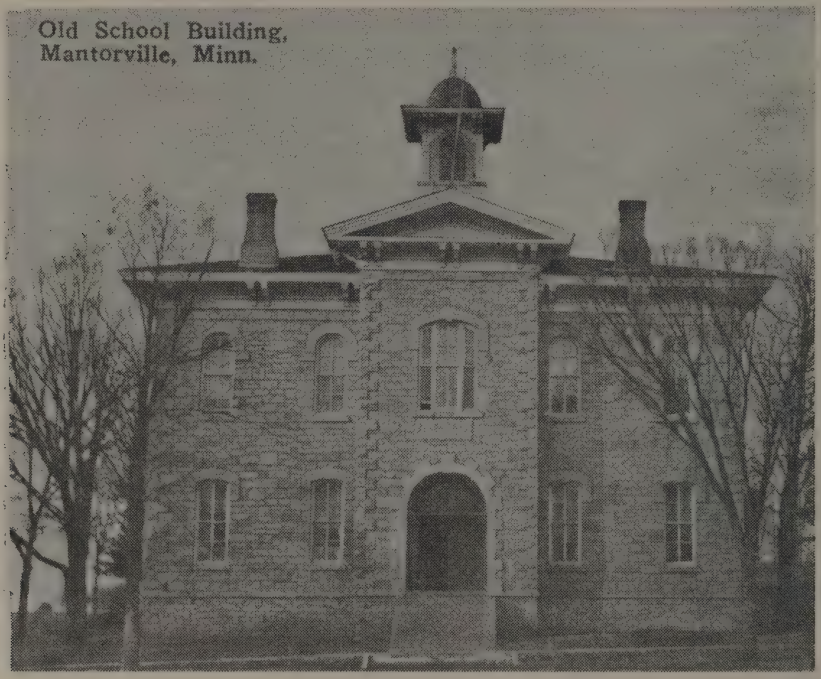
KASSON - - - - - MINNESOTA

DR. G. CHAPIN

VETERINARIAN

PHONE 220 — — — KASSON, MINN.

another building known as "Central School" was erected, and in 1894 still another school was erected, either of which served as the present school. Mantorville was host to the first teachers institute held in the County of Dodge Twenty-nine teachers attended the meet from various schools throughout sections of Southern Minnesota.



Old School Building, Mantorville, Minn.

On July 16, 1857, the first issue of the Mantorville Express rolled off the press, with J. E. Bancroft, editor and publisher. After his death March 15, 1866, his widow, Mrs. G. E. F. Bancroft continued to edit the paper, and at the time was the only lady editor in the State of Minnesota. The press and other devices used for the newspapers publication was pulled into Mantorville by a team of oxen earlier

SYVERSON - PATTERSON MOTOR CO.

DODGE - PLYMOUTH SALES and SERVICE

MASSEY-HARRIS - NEW HOLLAND BALERS

AND FOX FORAGE HARVESTERS

KASSON — — — — MINN.

COMPLIMENTS OF

THE WEST CONCORD ENTERPRISE

WEST CONCORD, MINN.

L. W. and D. L. SMITH, PUBLISHERS

in 1857. According to the State Historian, Mantorville has had Minnesota's oldest continously published newspaper, up until 1946, when a short break occured. One may find a complete collection of these papers at the State Historical Building in St. Paul. In its early times a small square in the upper left hand column of the Express read; "J. E. Bancroft, Editor and Proprietor, office on Main Street, 2nd building north from the bridge. Price, two dollars a year, in advance." Various ads were printed in early copies of the Express, and some very amusing as well as interesting examples occured in the January 28, 1958 issue reading as follows: "DEBTS EASILY PAID—Those who owe us can pay us in wheat if they do so immediately. Our pay we want and must have, and if you have grain pass it along. We have waited on you nearly a year and this indulgence you should appreciate. You can pay us if you are disposed. This is the last appeal to you. FRANK MANTOR & CO. "The second ad reads; Mrs. G. W. Shultes, Fashionable Milliner and Dress Maker, first door south of Hubbell's Hotel, Main

Present Mantorville School building

THE OTTERNESS DRUG STORE

OTIS L. OTTERNESS

DODGE CENTER MINNESOTA

3 1833 03155 5524

MARJORIE'S BEAUTY SHOP
FOR COMPLETE BEAUTY SERVICE—
PERMANENT WAVING, SHAMPOOS, FINGER WAVES
AND HELENE CURTIS COLD WAVES
OPEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY EVENINGS
PHONE 34 KASSON, MINN.

Street, Mantorville, M. T., a general assortment of bonnets and bonnet trimmings constantly on hand." The third ad reads: "MANTORVILLE LODGE No. 11, of F. & A. M. meets in the Masonic Hall every Tuesday evening at 6½ o'clock. and the fourth and final ad reads: HUBBELL HOUSE, Main Street, Mantorville, J. B. Hubbell, Proprietor, wishes to say to his old friends, and the public generally, that he is now established as proprietor of the stone Hotel, known as the Hubbell House. No pains will be spared for the comfort and convenience of guests. Stages arrive and leave daily.

During the years of the Civil War, (1861-65), Mantorville furnished one-hundred-five men to aid the tragic event, some of which were being educated at the Groveland Seminary in Wasioja.

History has proven to us that the pioneer has always carried his beliefs in religion and his ideas of education with him, and has established first his church and then his school. Our forefathers have followed history much on this pattern. In December of 1855, a Methodist Mission was adopted and services were held during the following year with various members of the com-

Mantorville Express about 1897

BOTSFORD LUMBER CO.
FOR BETTER LUMBER OR COAL GO TO THE
"THE HOME OF PEERLESS COAL" AND BUILDING
WE DELIVER KASSON, MINN. PHONE 49

MANTORVILLE PRODUCE
Top Prices Paid For Eggs and Poultry
Carlson's Top Notch Chick Starter, Grower
And Egg Mash
MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

munity acting as ministers. During the closing years of that period, the Rev. N. Moon arrived in the village and a church was organized. In 1860 a small stone church was erected in the western part of Mantorville. During the next few years the congregation dwindled, and the organization ceased.

Congregational Church in 1862

The building was later sold to the Congregationalists who at the time were beginning to hold services in private homes and else-where that they were permitted. The Rev. Charles Shedd had the honor of being the first pastor of the church. This group had suffered many hardships in their attempts to hold services, but after purchasing the new building, their organization expanded and their church became strong. At present it is the only protestant church in existence in the village, and has just recently completed a fine new annex which was added to the original church building, and was dedicated October 21, 1951. The Rev. Frank Harcey is the present pastor.

In the fall of 1865, the Rev. Peter S. Ruth and his family emigrated westward from Ohio and settled in

DODGE CENTER STATE BANK
MEMBER OF FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORP.
A GOOD PLACE TO DO YOUR BUSINESS
DODGE CENTER MINNESOTA

GAMBLE STORE
AUTHORIZED DEALER
RADIOS - TELEVISION - HARDWARE - TIRES
REFRIGERATORS - AUTO ACCESSORIES - PAINTS
SPORTING GOODS - PAINTS and WALLPAPER
KASSON - - - - - MINNESOTA

the picturesque Mantorville. Soon after their arrival, the Episcopal families of the settlement gathered for services. At first their preference was to hold church services in a vacant store, but as they became more fully organ-

Present Congregational Church. Annex at right was dedicated to original church Oct. 1951

ized, they resolved to incorporate the church according to the laws of the state and to build their church. With this idea in mind they incorporated on March 18, 1868, with Iseral Olive and George Zeller serving as wardens. Easter Monday was the time chosen for the annual election and St. John's Episcopal church of Mantorville was born. Three hundred dollars were pledged by the society for the services of a rector, and at the end of the first year (1869), construction began on a beautiful stone church which was finally erected into a very handsome structure. Today it remains standing guard over the entire village.

Through the efforts of the Wasioja Grange, this church was purchased by the village of Mantorville, restored and

BEAVER HARDWARE
MAYTAG WASHERS - MONARCH RANGES
PHILCO TELEVISION - RADIOS
Westinghouse Refrigerators and Duo Therm Heaters
It isn't Better Because We Sell it. We Sell it Because it's Better
KASSON - - - - - MINNESOTA

DON'S BARBER SHOP

AGENT FOR GLASGOW CLEANERS
PICK-UP TUESDAY-FRIDAY

MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

turned over to the Dodge County Historical Society, in recent years. The basement is being completed and will be used as meeting place for Grange.

St. John's Episcopal church, built in 1869, now Dodge County Historical Society building.

On Thursday afternoon of last week Oct.6, 1910' (too late for notice in the Express) the Catholic church in Mantorville was, with the customary sacred rites, dedicated by Rt. Rev. Bishop Heffron of Winona diocese. He was assisted by Rev. Fr. Cotter of Claremont, pastor of the church; Rev. Fr. Coudron of Stewartville; Rev. Fr. Fox of Janesville; Rev. Fr. Cassidy of Rochester: and Rev. Fr. Kiely of St. Clair

The church was dedicated to St. Margaret. It will, therefore, be known hereafter as "Saint Margaret's Catholic

DON'S HARDWARE

JANNEY BEST PAINTS
DEXTER and EASY WASHERS
PHILCO TELEVISION, RADIOS, REFRIGERATORS
TELEPHONE 2081 - MANTORVILLE MINN.

STUCKY GROCERY
QUALITY MERCHANDISE
GROCERIES - MEATS - -VEGETABLES - FRUITS
FROZEN FOODS - MILK - ICE CREAM
MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

Church of Mantorville."

Following the dedication service, the Bishop also administered the sacrament of confirmation to 21 of its members.

The church looked very pretty and was well filled with an interested and reverent congregation. The entre service was beautiful and impressive.

The Express representative congratulates Fr. Cotter on his neat little church and growing congregations, and especially congratulates him in having secured the services of that former "Mantorville boy," Bishop Heffron.

The present church building was orginally erected for a church but has also been used as a hotel, a residence and was thhe printing office of the Mantorville Express before it was purchased by St. Margaret's parish. The

Recent photograph of the St. Margaret's Catholic Church in Mantorville.

WASIOJA GROCERY
GROCERIES AND MEATS
QUALITY MERCHANDISE
WASIOJA MINNESOTA

LEWIS K. LEE GROCERY
QUALITY GROCERIES
PHONE NO. 1 KASSON, MINN.

present pastor is Father Cyril Peterson.

As the churches came into the community, so also did the Fraternal organizations. The eleventh lodge in the state was esablished by the Masons during the late 1857. It is the oldest fraternal organization in the county.

It is the ninth oldest Masonic lodge in the state.

*An early-day source states: "Probably no brewery in the country is better situated, built as it is against a bluff of solid stone." The building was erected above two solid rock cellars, 40x70. These cellars were used for storage purposes and had a capacity of 7,000 barrels. Steam power was used exclusively, and was easily obtain-

The Ginsburg Brewery constructed in 1874. East side of village

On July 16, 1870, the lodge building and its records were destroyed by fire, but the members erected a fine stone building which has been in use ever since.

In 1874, Charles Ginsburg constructed a brewery just south of fifth street, and east of the Hubbell House.

ed from water which was supplied from "Cold Springs", forty rods away. The water was conducted through a two and a half inch pipe, which led from the spring containing crystal clear and ice cold water. This company stayed in good service until business grew poor, thus resulting in the dis-

DODGE CENTER STAR-RECORD
HOME OF FINE PRINTING
DODGE CENTER MINNESOTA

COMPLIMENTS OF

OLIVER HOLTAN
GENERAL INSURANCE

PHONE 2102 MANTORVILLE, MINN

continuance of the work performed there. After standing idle for some time, Walter Andrist converted the structure into a cheese factory which attracts young lads who enjoy exploring secret passes which lead among the tumbled rock.

As the country side grew rich with

Measuring about 22 feet in circumferance is the trunk of this giant Cottonwood tree which stands on the Sam Goodrich property near the Village Park. The tree has been estimated at about 100 feet in heigth. The two youngsters standing against this ancient tree are: Dennis Harcey and Gerald Head.

was patronized by farmers in surrounding areas. In recent years the edifice was sold and nearly torn to the ground The rocky shell remains standing as it abundant acres of grains, and as the farmers began needing a place to dispose of their grains, Cowdery & Co., erected an elevator in the village of

COMPLIMENTS OF

KASSON WELL DRILLING

LEONARD L. LAMPLAND — PHONE 298

KASSON - - - - - - MINNESOTA

V. J. CROUCH, REALTOR
FARM AND TOWN PROPERTY
INSURANCE — FARM LOANS
DODGE CENTER MINNESOTA

Mantorville sometime in 1890. The erection was at that time large and contained storage room enough for 25,000 bushels. This elevator was located near the site of the railroad depot on the north side of the Zumbro.

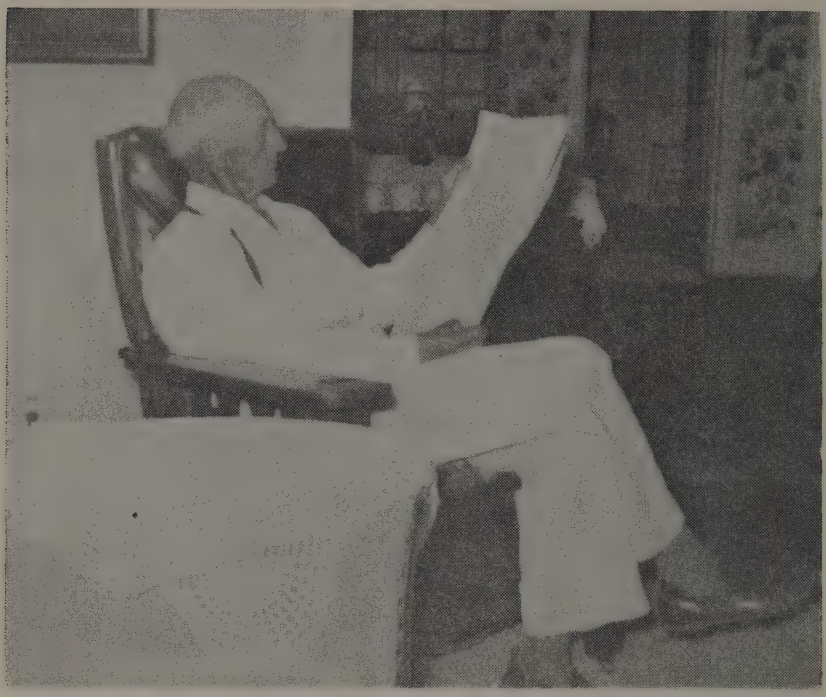
A bank was founded in the village during the spring months of 1890, with a capital of $35,000. The institution stayed in service until the

Scene of Hans Madson in his Harness Shop in the village. In addition to being a harness maker for more than half a century, Mr. Madson, is a charter member of IOOF lodge No. 45.

COMPLIMENTS OF
FARMER'S CO-OP. OIL
GAS, OIL AND TIRES
KASSON — — — — MINN.

ANDERSON CANNING & PICKLE CO.
QUALITY PACKERS
PEAS — CORN — TOMATOES
OFFICE PHONE 3021 DODGE CENTER MINN.

spring of 1893, when it was unable to operate at a profit. In January of 1894, a private banking house was opened by Geo. S. Brainard which was known as the Security State Bank of Mantorville. Later in that year the bank passed into the hands of T. S. Slingerland & Co. At the time Mr. Slingerland acted as president of the firm, and L. M. Blanch carried on the



Henry Naegeli in his home in Mantorville, who is reading through a Mantorville Express, which was published in the 1800's. Mr. Naegeli was once a famous band man who helped furnish musical entertainment in this vicinity

COMPLIMENTS OF
KASSON-MANTOR TELEPHONE CO.
KASSON — — — — MINN.

RADDATZ CAFE

BEVERAGES — MEALS — ICE CREAM

"19 YEARS OF DEPENDABLE SERVICE"

PHONE 21 WEST CONCORD, MINN.

cashier responsibilties. These two banks changed owners again and again, and the last bank operated in the village was in 1930-31.

A group of ducks on the Anton Karlstad farm, south of town

In 1896, a railroad system was established in the village of Mantorville, and a track was layed from Kasson which branched 2.9 miles into the County Seat. The first train chugged into the village on December 8th of that year, and was viewed by many spectators who were anxiously awaiting its arrival. In 1930-31, the branch was discontinued. During the early 90's the Chicago & Great Western built a track running from Eden to

Churchward Feed Store and Hatchery

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DIRECT FARM PICK—UP SERVICE
Do you have eggs to sell? Send us a postcard or phone us collect.
We will pick up your eggs and pay a good price
PHONE 2511 DODGE CENTER, MINN.

Mantorville. This track was discontinued on a late October day in 1934. The train slowly puffed through the town and passed from the viewers site. It was the last train ever running through the village. Charles E. Raymond published an early-day sketch of Mantorville, and a very interesting advertisement is found in that source, which reads: "Business Opportunities, The Chicago Great Western traverses the best farming sections of the West, and is interested in securing different branches of business for 150 towns on the "Maple Leaf Route". These stations are located in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri; a large proportion of them new villages, surrounded by prosperous farming communities. These are rare chances for enterprising businessmen to establish a trade in growing towns. MANTORVILLE IS ON OUR LIST. The county seat of one of the richest agricultural counties in Minnesota, with a picturesque location, 600 population, substantial business blocks and unexcelled schools. The Chicago Great Western Railway Company began operating its new line to Mantorville in the fall of 1896,

Cutting the summers harvest on the Frederick Benedix farm about two miles north of Mantorville. Fredrick Benedix on the tractor and William Meeker on the binder.

EGGENSPERGER'S
VARIETY STORE
QUALITY MERCHANDISE
DON EGGENSPERGER, Prop. MANTORVILLE, MINN.

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LIFE—ACCIDENT—HEALTH—HOSPITALIZATION
R. R. McKEAN MANTORVILLE PHONE 2182

giving direct and daily service to St. Paul and Minneapolis, and connections with Chicago and Kansas City limited trains. This has made available undeveloped resources and created business opportunities that are well worth investigation. Correspondence solicited, and all information free. Write for Maple Leaflets and Homeseekers' Map. Address W. J. Reed, Industrial Agent, 604 Endicott Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota."

In the early times, Mantorville was the principle town of the county in many respects. "Hills History of Dodge County," stated that at this time "Business thrived, and the town bid fair to rival Rochester and other cities that have now out-stripped it." Mantorville was handed its "Death Blow" when the Winona & St. Peter railroad was demolished. This did

Dodge County road grader operated by Harvey Houseman, near the Klaus Alberts farm, north of Mantorville.

COURTESY OF
LIPPINCOTT JEWELRY
KEEPSAKE DIAMONDS — ELGIN WATCHES
DODGE CENTER MINN.

THE HAYFIELD HERALD
"CITY SERVICE IN A COUNTRY TOWN"
Mr. and Mrs. A. Crawford
HAYFIELD MINNESOTA

not prevent the town from continuing. Among the business successions at Mantorville were her "unrivaled stone quarries and her mills driven by the tireless Zumbro". These quarries were the first opened in the state and

The old McDonald quarry, west of Mantorville. This has been out of existance since 1920—now the property of Stussy's

produced fine and large amounts of lime stone. Many of the public buildings and private homes in the neighboring cities have been constructed of stone from these quarries. The stone in the upper area of the village was a compact rock lying in thick beds, yellow in color, and wore away evenly by weathering. The lower area of rock was grayish in color, and wore away unevenly. A layer of green shale was formed by an overflowing spring which lines easterly sections of the village. With the railroad transportation lacking in Mantorville, her quarries were prevented from being worked on a high scale. In spite of all the disadvantages in the transporation system the quarries have continued to turn out rock in large amounts throughout

FERRIN INSURANCE AGENCY
GENERAL INSURANCE
PHONE 2611 MANTORVILLE, MINN.

DODGE COUNTY SERVICE
JOHN LOQUAI, Manager
GAS - OIL - AND TIRES
MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

the years. Present quarries are operated by Stussy's, just south of Mantorville.

Another natural feature found in the town, is the blue clay which underlies the soil of Mantorville. It can be found while digging wells and usually extends from the depth of about ten to thirty feet. The clay-like soil was excellent in the drain tile industry. Gold too, has been found in various sections of the Zumbro Valley, and such has been the case in the now "deserted village" of Sacramento.

Two great physicians have stepped into Mantorville's historical spot-light of fame. The first being an early settler of Mantorville, J. R. Dart, who practiced medicine in the village, and held the honor of being the first physician in the county. It is interesting to note that 1200 persons payed tribute and attended the funeral of Dr. Dart, held September 11, 1874 in the village. The second noted physician was the late Dr. R. T. Adams, who graduated from Mantorville High School in 1882 and has been well remembered by many of today. A present citizen of the village recently stated

The Gipson Lumber Co., located east of the Hubbell House and north of the Fire Hall. Fred Baslington, Mgr. in front of building

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MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

EDNA BRITTS FUNERAL SERVICE

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OR CALL VANCE DENTON AT HAYFIELD

MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

"Doc Adams was probably Mantorville's most likeable citizen". Dr. Adams was chosen in 1933 as the "typical country doctor" at the Century of Progress in Chicago. In his early days the doctor many times attended the patients in the surrounding vicinity during winter storms on horse back or ski's and so won the friendship of old folks and small children alike.. At the time of his death one small boy with a tear stained face said "the doctor is dead, who will take care of us now?"

The Fryer Nursery located on the edge of Mantorville

After the Winona & St. Peter railroads with-drew a good share of Mantorville's business places stood idle, her brewery doors closed, and her grain

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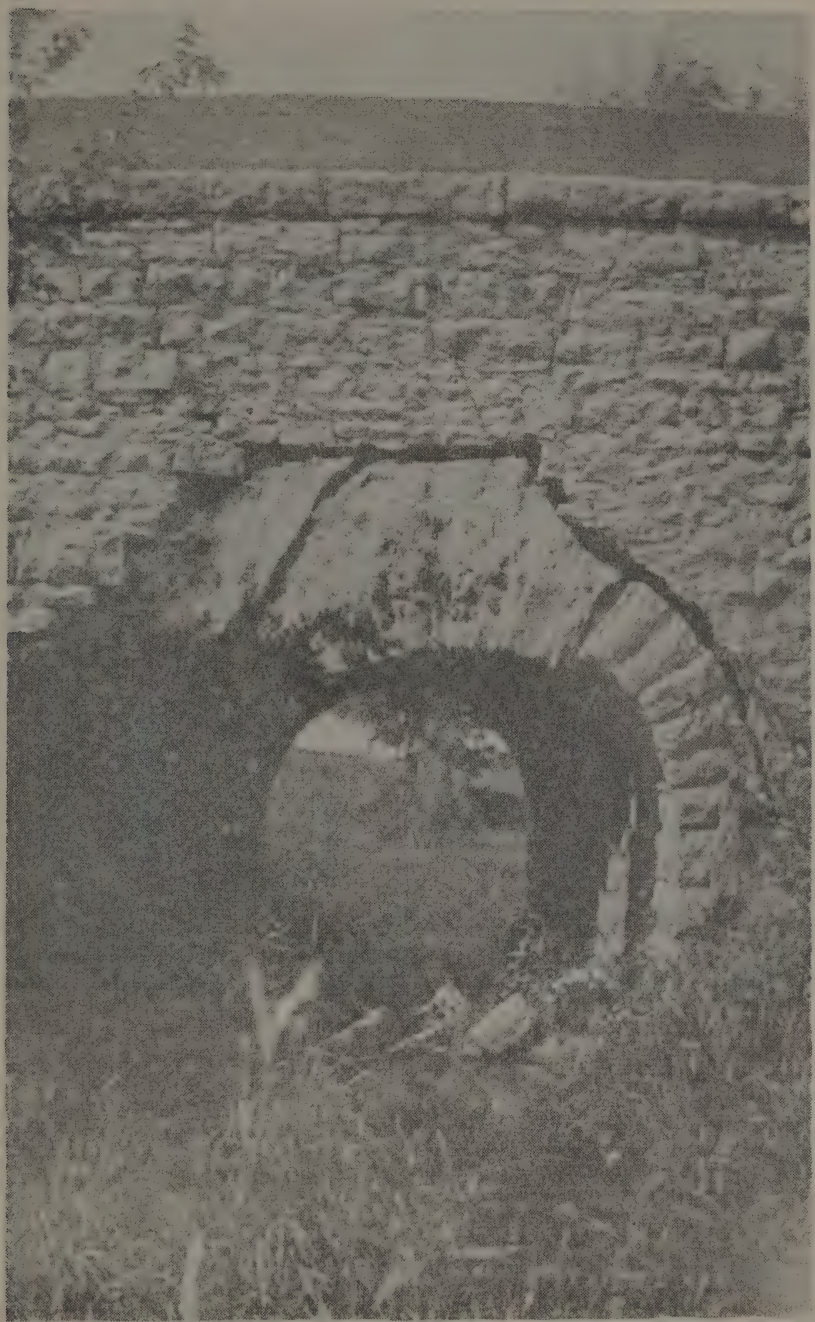
ROCHESTER, MINN. PHONE 3969



The old Charnock arch bridge lying in a valley of pasture land where cows graze throughout the summer. The bridge overlooks the Alfred Bergmann property.

THE DODGE THEATRE

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The Honorable Mayor of Mantorville, Charles Menne

elevator bins emptied. Did this prevent all of its people from living? No. For today its population remains at 477. In its way, Mantorville is a strange little town because of the fact that it holds the County Seat title and does not have a railroad system, a bus line, a doctor, a bank or an air

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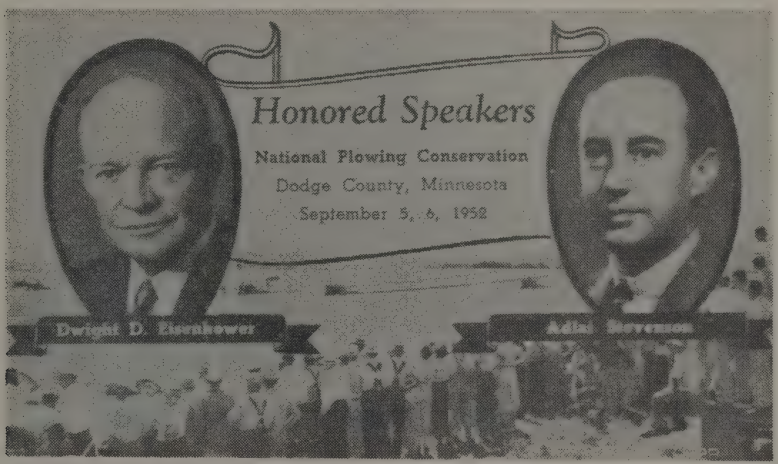
DODGE CENTER, MINN. PHONE 3181

GIPSON LUMBER COMPANY

BUILING MATERIAL - COAL CEMENT

MANTORVILLE MINNESOTA

route. It too, is the second smallest County Seat in the state, and no bank or theatre exists in the village at the present time. About a dozen limestone structures stand within the village limits, many of which have been pitted throughout the years by summer's storms and winter's ice. Oaks and Cottonwoods skirt the banks of the



Zumbro and stand elsewhere in the village. Pines too, grow in small amounts and tower the skies in the Slingerland Park and on Fryers hill. Splendid flower gardens are found throughout the town which win prize after prize at the annual Dodge County Fair. About one mile southeast of the village lies the "Evergreen Cemetery" which is perhaps one of the most beautiful country cemetery's in the state. It lies on what is known as "Peaceful Hill" just above the Zumbro. Mantorville is located in one of the most fortunate localities in the entire world as it lies only 17 miles from Rochesters worlds famous medical center and about 75 miles from the Minnesota twin cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul. It is only a days drive from Canada, the North Woods and the Great Lakes where people from all over the world vacation each year.

Mantorville now has the smallest school in the county, with an enrollment of 232. Although small, the school rivals larger and stronger school

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MAYTAG and WESTINGHOUSE
PIRKL & HALL APPLIANCES
WEST CONCORD, MINN. PHONE 89

systems in athletics. During the past five years, it has won six championships in various fields of sports. These groups include the Mantorville Miget baseball team, the High School baseball group and the Indian football squad. This school has sent many persons into broad fields of achievement. In 1927, Andrew McDonough was graduataed from the school and attained the greatest speed record ever held by a human being. He received his recognition after diving in a test flight of 620 miles per hour. Rear

Stussy Quarries, southeast of Mantorville, which has been operating successfully for a good many years.

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FOOD STORES

Admiral Frank A. Beatty achieved a national reputation, as did Codenio A. Severance, a famous attorney; Samuel Lord, a well known state tax commissioner and the well known George B. Edgerton, a St. Paul Attorney. In recent years Mantorville had the distinguished honor of sending Arnold Blanch into a field of art. Mr. Blanch has been known to be a great modern day artist.

Mantorville boasts of having the 9th oldest Masonic Lodge, No. 11, in the State of Minnesota. This lodge operated under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Minnesota in 1856. The charter was granted in 1857. The present day officers are: Wilfred Burgess, W. M.; Orvis Alberts, S. W.; Frank B. Harcey, J. W.; Robert Burdick, S. D.; Melvin Blatti, J. D.; Lloyd Rouhoff, Tyler; C. C. Menne, Sec'y.; Amos Austin, Treas.; Herbert Cain, Chaplain; John Hogle, Senior Stewart; David Calhoun, Junior Stewart; and Ernest Ellson, Marshall.

The present Dodge County officials are: Auditor, Lawrence A. True; Treasurer, Obert E. Grovdahl; Register of Deeds, Lloyd C. Rouhoff; Supervisor of Assessments, Arthur Lampland; Clerk of Court, Harry E. Cowles; Sheriff, Rudy L. Benson; Judge of Probate, Lee R. Rohrer; County Attorney, G. W. Freeman; Coroner, Dr. R. R. Robertson; Judge of District Court, Axel B. Anderson; Highway Engineer, Geo. H. Nelson; County Surveyor, Casper Maxson; Superintendent of Schools, Bernard W. Taylor; Public Health Nurse, Bernice Weigel; Service Officer, Ernest E. Ellson; County Agent, Victor T. Sander; Weed Inspector, D. E. Lambert; Ex. Sec'y. County Welfare Department, I. A. Fenne; Court House Custodian, Amos Austin; County Commissioners: John Tully, Wm. A. Henslin, John Sathrum, G. A. Hester and H. U. Boe.

On July 12, 1952 the Mantorville School District No. 28, fulfilled the payments of all previous bills, and at present is one of the only schools in the county fulfilling debtless standards. The decision was voted upon by the Mantorville Board of Education. The board is comprised of six members

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PHONE 82 — — — KASSON, MINN.

who will head the Mantorville School System throughout the following 1952-53 school year. These members include: Donald Stussy, Chairman; Lawrence Klinepier, Vice-Chairman; John Loquai, Treasurer; Obert Grovdahl, Clerk Vernon Glaus and Harry Cowles, Directors.

The present 1952-53 Mantorville School staff is as follows: Robert Halstead, Superintendent; Mrs. Roma Morrisette of Dodge Center, 1st and 2nd grades; Mrs. Mildred Boyum of Dodge Center, 3rd and 4th grades; Mrs. Ethel Denny of Kasson, 5th and 6th grades; Mrs. Ann Oliphant of Dodge Center, Principal; Mrs. Agnes Linahan of Tomah, Wis., English; Lloyd Engen of Chippewa Falls, Wis., Industrial Arts; Mrs. Joy Englestad of Dodge Center, Home Economics; Donald Enright of Lanesboro, Commercial; Kenneth Walters of Midland, S. D., Coach and Science; and Wm. Johnson of Kasson, Music.

Many other people of importance make up the town, among them are the two grand old gentlemen of Mantorville, Hans Madson, who has been a harness maker for more than half a century, and Henry Naegeli, who organized a family band, and was known as a famous band man in this locality. Other persons taking an interest in present day advancements of the village consist of members of the council, including: Donald Spilman, Willis Carlson, Ronald McKean, Earl Babcock and Mayor Charles Menne. Oliver J. Holtan, also a resident of Mantorville, is at present Dodge County's State Representative.

Mantorville's past year has seen three decided improvements of which the Mantor's can be proud of. The first being a seventy-four foot water tower which finished completion the first week in August of 1951, and holds up to 50,000 gallons of water. The tower stands a short distance from the black-top extending into the village. Secondly, a new pump which furnishes water to fill the tower was installed, Tuesday, August 7, 1951 at the Fire Hall and furnishes up to 60 pounds pressure in the lower area of town, thus being a decided improvement over the previous water system.

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PHONE 44R — — — KASSON, MINN.

The last of the three improvements was the remarkable re-decoration job of oak paneling at the courtroom, which was begun about May 21st. Final inspection was made on September 19, 1951, and the entire job was approved and well commented about.

The farm land in the Mantorville areaa is richly seeded with various types of crops, some of which produce tall straight rows of corn, and beautiful yields of hay. At sun-down, one may occasionly sight a group of deer grazing among the open fields, or perhaps one may see them standing against the blue sky drinking water from a small babbling brook.

Klaus Alberts, a Mantorville township farmer was just recently honored with the National Skelly Award, for his achievements in agriculture and citizenship. In recent years the Olive Brothers achieved this award, thus, proving the successful men in the farming area.

Perhaps one of the greatest events ever held in this area was the National Soil Conservation Days, held on September 5th and 6th of 1952, on six farms of the Mantorville, Kasson and Dodge Center area.

"Plowville, U. S. A.," today is only a memory—not even a ghost town—but for two days it made tremendous impact upon America's political and agricultural consciousness.

"Plowville" of Dodge County was a collection of tents, machinery exhibits and food stands erected on a 18 acre alfalfa field on Henry Snow's farm midway between three Dodge County towns. More than 100,000 people converged on the field to hear two presidential aspirants—Dwight D. Eisenhower and Gov. Adlai Stevenson outline their farm programs. They also witnessed the crowning of two champion American plowmen and witnessed demonstrations of various soil conservation practices.

The gigantic two-day operation drew praise as one of the best managed out-door events ever staged in the upper mid-west. Most of the spectators came to hear Eisenhower and Stevenson expound their political and agricultural philosophy. Both candidates spoke from the same platform at dif-

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THE "Y"

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Pietrazak

7 - 2 a. m. Week Days - 9 - 2 a. m. Sunday

KASSON, MINN. — — PHONE 275-J

fernt times, before a huge crowd variously estimated at between 100,000 and 150,000.

Winning first place as the nation's two top plowmen were: Graeme Stewart of Plainfield, Ill., with a 87.83 out of 100, and Martin Cummings, 37, Lewiston, Ohio, placed at the top of the contour contest. Minnesota scored in the level land contest, when its state champion, Orville Hoeg of Alden came in second with a 83.93. Donald Eickson, Wycoff farmer, captured the Minnesota contour plowing championship, but finished ninth in the national contest.

Miss Syvia Steiger of Rochester, Minnesota representing Olmsted county was crowned queen of the furrows by Senator Edward Thye of Minnesota.

Our forefathers have seen many changes in Mantorville, he has seen the horse and buggy days, and as time advanced he saw the first cars. The march of the pioneer succeeded in keeping the Indian away, and in spite of all hardships he continued to march onward as he built our present Mantorville. Let us follow in his footsteps and ways to help and gain back our town's beautiful river which was recently held back by a cement dam, but now has been approved by the state and improvements are now in the making by local citizens.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In preparation of this story, the author has contacted many sources which have served as factual evidence and illustrative materials, which has been helpful in the exactness of dates, names, and other information. "Who's Who in Minnesota", published in 1941 by the Minnesota Editorial Association furnishes helpful data of great events happening in the county throughout the years, and the particular Dodge County history in that volume was written by F. W. Farrington, a recent editor of the Mantorville Express; H. H. Hill and Company's "History of Dodge County", was perhaps one of the most useful sources used in this history of Mantorville. Being published in 1884 and it gave useful information on the early pioneer of the village. Other sources deserving great merit are the

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early files of the Mantorville Express; "Inventory of the County Achieves of Minnesota", published by the Minnesota Historical Record Survey Project Administration, and was issued in September 1941. Also useful was the "History of Medicine in Dodge County" by James Eckman and Chas. E. Bigelow, M. D., and a small booklet of some thirty pages entitled "Mantorville of To-day", compiled by Charles E. and Hattie E. Raymond, was used as a source of illustrations.

Many thanks are extended to individuals who have contributed their time and information on this history. Those deserving special recognition are: Mr. and Mrs. Henry Naegeli; Miss Gertrude Kutzler; Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Taylor; Mr. Paul J. Pappas; and Mrs. Grace Buro.

Photographs were by Orlo Baslington, and cuts were supplied by the Mantorville Co-Op. Express. Thanks are also extended to L. W. Jensen, editor of the Mantorville Co-Op. Express for his job of printing and advertising.

INTERESTING FACTS (All approximate)

DATES 70—NAMES 180—WORDS 5500—SOURCES USED

NOTICE

All dates and names in this story have been checked by accurate sources, although some of the various volumes differ it is beleived that the most exact dates and names have been contacted, and are published in "Mantorville The County Seat of Dodge." . . . . . .

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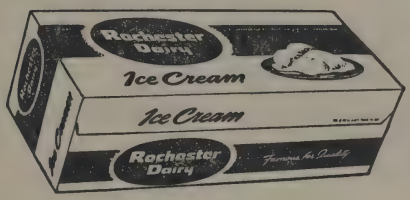

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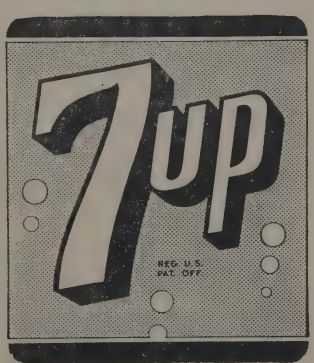

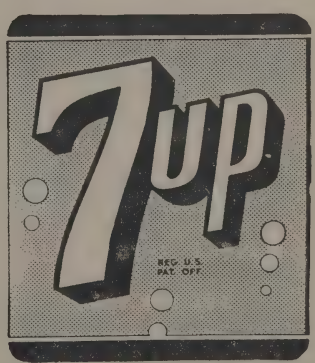

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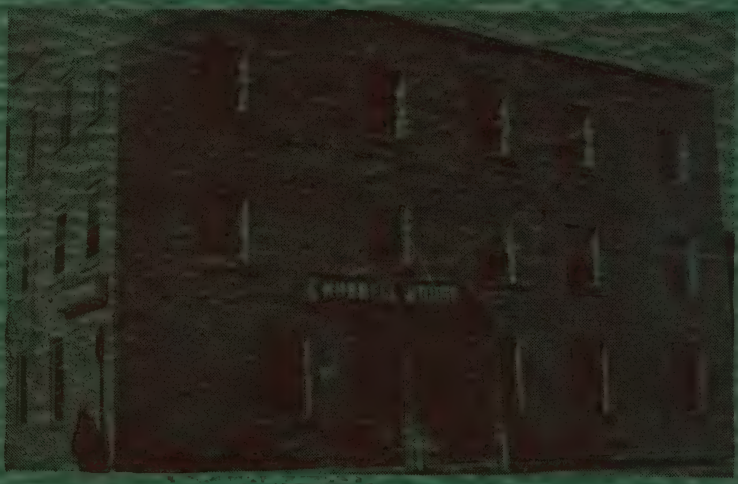

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